

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

(1) Claims 1-3, 14-16, and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Masunaga et al. (U.S. 5,742,329), hereafter “Masunaga” .

(2) Claims 4, 17 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over the combination of Masunaga in view of Maeng (U.S. 5,959,667).

(3) Claims 5-12, 18 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Masunaga in view of applicant’s cited prior art ACPA.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s indication that claims 13, 19 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits that claim 13 has been so amended. In addition, independent claim 14 has also been amended to substantially include these limitations. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 13 and 14, as well as dependent claims 15-18, as amended, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the other claims would have been anticipated or obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art over the any of the references or combination of references.

With regard to instant claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Masunaga fails to disclose, suggest, or render obvious to an artisan the recitation: defining a space based upon a layout of said video conferencing system, performing one of moving said camera through all pertinent panning values, said pertinent panning values being defined by said space in which said video conferencing system is located, and zooming said camera out so that all possible participants can be viewed by said camera and so that a location of each participant in said space can be determined. Independent claim 20 recites similar limitations.

It is respectfully submitted that Masunaga, and/or Masunaga in view of Maeng and applicant's cited prior art ACPA fails to disclose, suggest, or motivate an artisan to provide any of the above teachings. For example, Masunaga merely discloses that ... the participants in the conference in the self-station perform panning and zooming of the TV camera 2 by using the camera operation unit 8... When the number of attendants 1 at the conference is recognized in this manner, the data is input from the camera operation unit 8. This teaching does not anticipate instant claim 1 because nowhere does Masunaga, or any other combination of the applied references, disclose or suggest to an artisan to first define a space..., as recited in independent claim 1.

Finally, applicant respectfully submits that the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has held that:

The mere fact that the prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification.

In re Fritch, 973, F.2d 1260,1266, 23 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1780, 1783-84 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

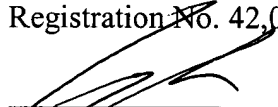
In the instant application, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been set forth in the Office Action as the suggested desirability of the features recited by instant claim 1 is not found in the combination of references.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that none of the instant claims would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art over any combination of the applied references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10/22/03

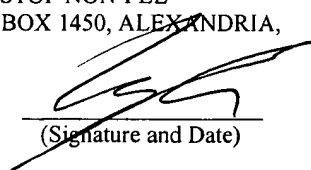

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